

Dear

Welcome to the last NZRAB newsletter of 2016.

George Bernard Shaw famously said: "All professions are conspiracies against the laity."

If proof is needed that Shaw was wrong, it's come in the responses from architects to our recent consultation about ethics.

The proposed changes would better protect the public by increasing what's expected of architects. Yet nonetheless the feedback from the profession has been overwhelmingly positive. The feedback also showed that among architects the values that underpin professionalism are strong – values of service, and a conviction that the built environment should be the best that it can be, for New Zealand's sake.

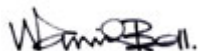
That said, the responses that we received were comprehensive and made many valuable suggestions in regard to the specifics clause by clause. I am sure that the revised code as finally adopted will be substantially enhanced as a result. We will start work on a final text in the New Year.

As the year winds down, I need to express my thanks to Callum McKenzie, whose term on the Board has come to end after many years of service, starting back in 2008. Callum served for much of that time as Chair of the Board's Registration Committee and he has been very much the guardian of our registration standards and procedures. Also as Deputy Chair he has been very supportive of me. Thankfully Callum's knowledge and experience will not be lost to the NZRAB, as he has agreed to carry on as a Registration Convenor. Callum's contribution has been substantial and influential.

Still, nothing ever stands still. Wellington architect Marc Woodbury has recently come onto the Board and he has stepped up to Chair the NZRAB's registration committee and keep an eye on our registration activities. So too, at year's end Auckland architect Kimberly Browne has joined the Board, bringing new energy and fresh perspectives to our deliberations.

The year 2016 has been busy for most architects – now is the time for family, friendship and some rest. From the NZRAB, may you have a happy festive season and a splendid New Year.

Best wishes



Warwick Bell
Chair



Total numbers up

The profession continues to grow. From the NZRAB's Annual Report made public recently, the total number of New Zealand Registered Architects increased by 65 to 1,846 in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. This is a slightly higher than the typical growth rate in recent years. One thing noteworthy in the last three years has been significant numbers of Australian architects registering here, though it seems to be tapering off a bit now. As at 30 June 2016, 263 architects were in voluntary suspension, slightly up on previous years. Of all architects registered and in voluntary suspension 22 per cent are female.

For more, you can open our annual report [here](#).

Ethics Consultation

In August 2016, the NZRAB consulted with the profession and its other stakeholders in regard to proposed changes to the New Zealand Code of Minimum Standards of Ethical Conduct for Registered Architects.

Of the responses from architects, both currently practising and in voluntary suspension, 312 said they supported what's proposed and 14 did not.

Submissions were also received from the New Zealand Institute of Architects, the Institution of Professional Engineers of New Zealand and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment.

Respondents were also invited to make comments in general or in particular about what's proposed. The feedback was thoughtful and extensive. Issues were raised as to where the boundary correctly lies between ethics that underpin a profession and commercial concerns that are part of the natural rough-and-tumble of being in business. More work on this is planned.

USA MRA

In our last newsletter we reported on the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signed with the United States of America that, if all goes to plan, will open up much of the US to New Zealand architects wanting to register there.

This is contingent of at least 50 per cent of the state registration boards in the US signing up to the MRA that we and the Australians have negotiated with the US National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. As we went to print, advice just received was that 25 US states and territories had signed on, and with more coming, it look very much as if the required benchmark will be reached. California is in the fold, which is exciting given that just this year California's economy went past the UK to become the fifth largest in the world.

On the flip side, as a result we may see some US architects registering here.

Registering overseas architects working in New Zealand

In our last newsletter we reported on a new registration pathway available for overseas architects working in New Zealand. We've already had some applications, and we suspect there are more overseas architects working in New Zealand who would benefit from registration here. If you have colleagues from offshore working here, please put them in touch with us.

Competence Reviews 2017

In a few weeks' time, an email will go to all those architects who need to have their five-yearly competence reviews in 2017. The first email will advise these architects that this is coming up and suggest that they get their CPD records up to date. Then in the New Year the assessment form will be emailed to architects needing to be reviewed. The assessment form mainly covers the work architects have been doing over the last five years, along with their professional development activities.

For engaged, professional architects, this is **NOT** something to be anxious about. The NZRAB has been doing these reviews since 2011 and reviewed all architects at least once, apart from those being registered for the first time. So far, four architects have had their registration suspended as a result. Two were because of competence concerns and two because they had not done enough relevant professional development (one had 30 CPD points, the other had none).

These reviews next year will be an organisational challenge, in that every five years we have to again review the massive tranche of architects that came across from the previous Architects Education and Registration Board when the NZRAB was set up in 2006. So in 2017 we will be

reviewing over 1000 architects. Please be patient with the office, if there are a few delays.

That's our news to date. If you have any concerns or issues that you wish to raise, do get in touch via the contact details below.

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